

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)**

**April 29, 2019**

**Held at the  
City of Rosemead  
The Garvey Community Center  
9108 Garvey Ave.  
Rosemead, Ca 91770**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 1:33 p.m.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was recited by all who were in attendance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

**Voting Members Present**

Chair Frank Colonna	
Vice Chair Dan Arrighi	Ms. Margaret Clark
Mr. Roberto Uranga	Ms. Liz Reilly
Mr. Denis Bertone	Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt
Mr. Ali Saleh	Ms. Rose Espinoza
Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)	
Mr. Jorge Morales	

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Mr. Julian Juarez

**Members Absent**

Ms. Linda Noriega  
Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)  
Ms. Amy Coups (for Ms. Colloton)  
Mr. Josh Nelson (for Secretary Crowfoot)  
Mr. John Bishop (for Mr. Blumenfeld)  
Ms. Karen Finn (for Mr. Bosler)  
Mr. John Walsh (for John Donnelly)  
Ms. Beatrice Musacchia (for Mr. Silsby)  
Mr. Jerry Perez (for Mr. Moore)  
Mr. Stan Chen  
Ms. Sarah Patterson (for Assembly member P. O'Donnell)

## **Staff Present**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General  
Dena Williams, Board Secretary  
Salian Garcia, Accounting Analyst  
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager  
Joseph Gonzalez, Project Manager  
Sally Gee, Project Manager  
Jennifer Fierro, Executive Secretary

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

There were no discrepancies noted.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the April 29, 2019, minutes. Vice Chairman Arrighi seconded the motion. Board Voted. 11 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.**

## **6. CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was no report given.

## **7. APPOINTMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD**

Board Member Saleh motioned to appoint Jorge Morales to the WCA Governing Board. Vice Chair Arrighi second the motion.

## **8. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

There was no report given.

## **9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **A. Legislative**

Mark Stanley gave an overview and update on a few State legislative bills including AB 968 (Garcia. C) - Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program, which creates Naturalist programs throughout California community colleges; AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) to include Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island; AB 45 (Allen D.) – Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020; and H.R. 1708 (M. Shift) – Conclusion of The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study between Santa Monica mountains and San Gabriel.

Chairman Colonna asked about opportunities of funding Catalina Island for such things as water issues? Mr. Stanley responded that he met with the City of Avalon, the Catalina

Island Conservancy (CIC), and Edison to discuss their needs; should RMC expand into this territory then they will need to apply into the competitive grant process for funds. Board Member Morales asked if adding the CIC would affect the composition of the RMC Board. Mr. Stanley replied that Legislation does not require additional members to be added or would affect the RMC Board. Board Member Clark followed up the question by asking if the CIC had any representation. Mr. Stanley answered that Catalina Island is represented by the Council of Governments and had a seat on the Gateway Cog. Chairman Colonna suggested inviting the chairperson of the CIC to be a guest at the RMC Board to share ideas.

## **B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget**

Salian Garcia stated that this report reflects balances up to April 15, 2019, with remaining balances for various bonds from Prop 40 to Prop 68. Projects awaiting board approval have been moved because three (3) projects were removed from the agenda. Ms. Garcia stated the correct balance for Prop 1, Section 79731F, was currently \$11, 114, 711; the LA River portion of Prop 1 was currently \$39, 947, 885; the only project pending coverage is RMC 18005, Gateway Greening Plan, which was approved at the October 2018 Board Meeting at \$130, 000, the final reconciliation will be ready for the next Board Meeting.

Ms. Garcia stated that Exhibit A has no Advance Funds to report. Exhibit B tracked three quarters into the fiscal year with only 54% of the budget spent; pending cost include printing, postage refill, and charging station is expected not to exceed the budget amount. Exhibit C outlined Contract reports. Chairman Colonna requested to investigate future revenue to see future projections of incumbered and unencumbered funds.

## **C. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary**

Ms. Garcia reported that the RMC has authorized 243 total projects, which consists of 199 completed, 35 are certified, 1 approved and pending encumbrance with the remaining balance of 8 withdrawn projects. This total number of projects excludes two potential projects that are awaiting board approval. Board Member Saleh asked if there were figures for the total for the amount spent on the 195 projects. Ms. Garcia answered she did not have the exact total but gave a rough estimate of \$199, 000, 000.

## **D. Project and Liaison Activities**

Mark Stanley stated the River Rangers Program was in the process of submitting final reports to legislation this May, he had already presented a summary and a presentation would be on the next agenda.

California Secretary of Financial Resources, Wade Crowfoot, visited with RMC and South Gate, Mayor Jose Morales, for a tour of the Lower LA River and review of activities of the RMC and Lower LA River basin.

Mr. Stanley wanted to note that South and Southeast LA School Water Equity School Project is a forward-thinking program to build community awareness, rebuilding of water infrastructure, and career building for students. RMC will continue to work with this project throughout its fruition.

The groundbreaking at the Magic Johnson Park occurred March 18, 2019, in which RMC provided a grant of 3 million to restore the lake. This lake will pull water from the Bandini river to make a type wetland in the lake.

Mr. Stanley reviewed the Pacific Vision event at the Aquarium of the Pacific, which is a press event for the expansion of the aquarium. He invited the Board Members to attend the event.

Mr. Stanley stated the Duck Farm project is now under construction and should only take a few months to complete, it has two events; the first was a community event inviting members of the community to hear of the activities that will take place during construction. The second event was the groundbreaking event which took place March 18, 2019.

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

**10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO ESTABLISH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO IMPLEMENT THE LOS ANGELES RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS STUDY SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSIS.**

Joe Gonzalez reported that the State Water Board is pursuing to conduct a collaborative case study of the Los Angeles River to form a scientific approach for evaluating future 1211 Petitions. This will be a two-part motion beginning with the RMC entering an agreement with SMMC, followed by awarding the WCA with a grant.

Mr. Gonzalez stated this proposal, consisting of entering into an agreement with the SMMC for the implementation of the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis, does not result in a fiscal impact.

**Ms. Clark motioned to approve this item. Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes =11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO PERFORM THE LOS ANGELES RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS STUDY SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSIS WITH MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY THROUGH A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT.**

Joe Gonzalez reported that this item would authorize RMC to fund the WCA with a grant of \$250, 000 to fund the performance of the LA River's Environmental Flow Studies. Likewise, the SMMC will provide the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) funding to contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project for additional Environmental Flow Studies.

This item mirrors the Item 10 proposal with funding so should this resolution be approved authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to implement the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis, the fiscal impact to the RMC will be a total of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). This amount will be matched by an additional \$250,000 provided in the form of a grant by the SMMC, for a total grant of \$500,000.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**12. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER RANGER PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT PLAN TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF AB 1558 AND SB 1126.**

Sally Gee reported that the goal for this proposal is to submit Los Angeles River Ranger Program Plan to the California State Legislature. Although a final draft plan has not been completed the contents of the plan include a summary of public outreach conducted, recommendations for governance and funding models, and next steps for program roll-out.

On October 15, 2018, the RMC Board approved a grant of Proposition 1 funds in the amount of \$250,000 to the WCA in collaboration with the SMMC and the MRCA to complete the River Ranger Program (RMC Resolution 18-23). This amount matched an additional \$250,000 provided by to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a total amount of \$500,000 to fund the completion of the River Ranger Program. Plan.

**Mr. Saleh motioned to approve this item. Mr. Morales seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LIST OF POTENTIAL CONSULTANTS GENERATED FROM THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES RETAINER FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER COMMUNITY RESTORATION & REVITALIZATION PROJECTS, INCLUDING GREEN INCUBATOR AND CULTURAL CENTER.**

Salian Garcia reported that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to efficiently carry out the planning, development, and construction for projects related to the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, Green Incubator, and the Cultural Center. The request was for Consultants Services to provide professional services as required for project planning and development on an as needed basis the projects identified in the planning process for the Los Angeles river initiated by passage of AB 530, establishment of the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group generated opportunities for urban river enhancements that touch on integration of open space, housing, transportation, and business development.

The RFQ was released on December 5, 2018 with a submittal deadline of January 7, 2019. The RFQ's primary purpose was to establish a pool of individual consultants and firms who have been pre-screened for their relevant level of expertise in urban river community projects, outreach, incubator and urban river improvement programs and projects. Submittals were evaluated based upon a set of nine criteria for those firms who have complied with the minimum qualification requirements.

Funding for the contracts resulting from the Request for Qualifications will be allocated from local assistance for Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects and the statute from multiple fund sources, including Proposition 1, Proposition 68, and Budget Act of 2018 allocations.

**Ms. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO RATIFY A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AND SERVICE ORDER WITH GEOSYNTEC CONSULTING TO PROVIDE SITE SELECTION, FEASIBILITY, AND PRE-CONCEPT TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR A COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER IN SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (RMC 18513).**

Joe Gonzalez stated that projects identified in the planning process for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan were initiated by the passage of AB 530 which established a Lower Los Angeles River Working Group. One of the projects identified was a Community Cultural Center in Southeast Los Angeles near the confluence of the Rio Hondo. Geosyntec consulting was identified as a top-tier candidate and not only demonstrates the technical expertise to lead the feasibility study for the Cultural Center but the Geosyntec Team is best suited to coordinate planning efforts with regional entities between this project and other studies in the LA River.

Geosyntec has proposed carrying out the feasibility and pre-concept geotechnical investigations on a lump sum basis for \$879,960. While the current Service Order includes all analyses expected to be necessary for feasibility phase and pre-concept analysis, there is the potential for additional analyses. This is because with the limited information at this time (site selection, configuration of buildings and site layout), it is difficult to identify the level of effort, if any, required for optional hydraulic analyses related to developing on a site adjacent to the slope of the River channel's levee where over-topping could occur. Additionally, it is unclear if a Phase 2 ESA will be required until potential environmental impacts are evaluated during the Phase I ESA. Any amendments to this contract for additional pre-concept analysis will be brought to the Board.

Funding for the Service Order with Geosyntec will be allocated for Los Angeles River Community Restoration from the Budget Act of 2018 allocation (Senate Bill No. 840). For local assistance, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency: Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects, in the amount of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000), of this amount, allocation to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy is nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000).

**Ms. Reilly motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Lavitt seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO NEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE JPA DISSOLUTION AGREEMENT WITH THE SGRDCA'S MEMBER AGENCIES.**

Salian Garcia reported that the proposed site (Whittier Narrows) for the Discovery Center is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and is operated by the County of Los Angeles under an Operating Agreement with the Corps. The existing Nature Center at the site is small and in need of refurbishment. The proposed Discovery Center would have replaced the existing nature center at the park and allow for expanded educational and interpretive programs focused on the San Gabriel River and the conservation of water resources. It was determined by the Department of the Army – Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers that there are circumstances which preclude going forward with construction of the Discovery Center project.

Staff will take steps to dissolve the organization in accordance with the formation document, San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, Article X, Terms of Agreement, Admission and Withdrawal, Sections 10.2, 10.3, 10.3(a), and 10.3(c)

**Ms. Clark motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

16. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO AUTHORIZE A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR ACQUISITION OF A PROPERTY ALONG THE LOWER LA RIVER FOR THE GREEN INCUBATOR PROJECT (RMC 18008).**

Salian Garcia explained that the Rivers Green Incubator project will serve as a base and catalyst for the implementation of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan. Funding is set aside for the “Green Incubator Fund,” which will primarily be expensed for acquisition of a site and related build-out expenses.

Funding for this project will be allocated from the following sections of Proposition 1, under statutes 79731 (f) and 79730, with additional funding sources being used as they become available. This grant will award the Watershed Conservation Authority for the total amount of \$6,510,000. The Watershed Conservation Authority was listed as one of the entities that will be involved in the due diligence activities, such as pre-acquisition activities, Phase I Environmental Site Analyses, and the purchase of the site itself.

**Mr. Morales motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Saleh seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

17. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS FOR THE EMERALD NECKLACE SAN GABRIEL RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT (RMC 18009).**

This item was tabled.

18. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND FOR THE URBAN ORCHARD PROJECT (RMC 18010).**

This item was tabled.

19. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND FOR THE CENTRAL JEFFERSON HIGH GREEN ALLEY MULTI-BENEFIT STORMWATER PROJECT (RMC 18011).**

This item was tabled.

20. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT FOR THE PHIL AND NELL SOTO PARK (RMC 17018)**

Marybeth Vergara Phil and Nell Soto Park is a development of a new recreational passive community park that features amenities including walking trails, butterfly and bird habitats,

and bioswale systems. The City has experienced additional unforeseen earthwork/grading, soil remediation due to an unknown petroleum/diesel fuel underground storage tank, and construction design changes on top of 22 days of weather-related delays.

The City is requesting an extension of time to complete the construction of the project and to allow enough time to close out the RMC Grant through January 2020 and a budget augmentation of \$140,000 for the additional construction work bringing the new total grant amount to \$1,150,000.00. The RMC will be funding these grant projects from the \$30 million allocation to the Conservancy in Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 as provided for competitive grants multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state (Section 79731(f)).

**Ms. Clark motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**21. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no Board member comments.

**22. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

Mr. Stanley stated that the next meeting is Monday, May 20, 2019, in Bellflower.

**23. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:59 p.m.

**X**

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Frank Colonna  
Governing Board Chair

**X**

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Jennifer Fierro  
Board Secretary